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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Previously Presented) A method of producing elastic cuffs for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the precursor garment at a first width, the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a cuff area of each precursor garment while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the cuff area having the elastic material thereon; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;

e) whereby the elastic material holds the cuff area at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the step of affixing an elastic material to the cuff area further comprises applying a pre-elastic when the precursor garments are at the first width, and treating the pre-elastic to become an elastomeric while the precursor garments are at the first width.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein each of the precursor garments comprises a backsheet defined by the web assembly.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3 wherein each of the precursor garments further comprises a topsheet defined by the web assembly.

KCC-2100

2

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5. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the precursor garments comprise an assembled diaper lacking only the cuff area.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the backsheet comprises material selected from the group comprising: neckable nonwovens, neckable films, neckable laminates, or combinations thereof.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the elastic material is applied under tension thereby gathering the precursor garment and providing a doubly expandable cuff area with a first stage expansion taking out the gathers, and a second stage expansion expanding the material of the garment body.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 further including applying a precursor elastic to the cuff area and treating the precursor elastic to become elastomeric while the cuff area is at the first width.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9 further including treating the precursor elastic with heat.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a leg cuff area.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is a waistband area.

KCC-2100

3

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13. (Previously Presented) A method of producing selectively elastic areas in a web assembly of precursor garments, the web assembly having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) necking the web assembly of precursor garments to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the web assembly at a first width, with width being measured in the lateral direction, the web assembly being expandable to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a selected area of the web assembly when the web assembly is at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from the selected area of the web assembly with the elastic thereon and causing the web assembly to assume the second width at areas outside the selected area of the web assembly, whereby the elastic material holds the selected area of the web assembly at a dimension narrower than the second width; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of producing elastic waistbands for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

- a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the precursor garment at a first width in the lateral direction of the precursor garment, the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;
- b) affixing strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a waistband portion of each precursor garment while at the first width;
- c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the waistband portion having elastic material; and
- d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;
- e) whereby the elastic material holds the waistband portion at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of producing elastic leg cuffs for resultant garments obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the precursor garments having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the steps comprising:

a) applying necking tension to the web assembly of precursor garments to neck a leg cuff area of each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the leg cuff area at a first width in the longitudinal direction of the precursor garment, the leg cuff area of the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

b) affixing strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to the leg cuff area of each precursor garment while at the first width;

c) removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the leg cuff area having elastic material; and

d) dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into resultant garments;

e) whereby the elastic material holds the leg cuff area at a dimension narrower than the second width in the resultant garments.

16-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is necked to from about 20 to about 60%.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the cuff area is necked to from about 30 to about 50%.

30-31. (Canceled)

KCC-2100

6

I/jpp

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the web is necked to from about 20 to about 60%.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the web is necked to from about 30 to about 50%.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 4 wherein the topsheet does not comprise foam.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 4 wherein the topsheet is selected from the group consisting of apertured plastic films, natural fibers, synthetic fibers and combinations thereof.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising laminating with adhesive containment flaps having elastic materials and an upright, perpendicular configuration along the entire length of the liquid retention structure.

37. (New) A method of producing absorbent articles obtained from a web assembly of precursor garments, the steps comprising:

providing a web assembly comprising a backsheet of substantially liquid impermeable and water vapor material;

applying necking tension in the longitudinal direction to the web assembly to neck in the lateral direction each precursor garment to provide a percent neckdown of about 20% to about 80% thereby placing the precursor garment at a first width, the precursor garment being extendible to a second non-necked width wider than the first width when the necking tension is removed;

affixing strands of elastic material in an untensioned state to a cuff area of each precursor garment while at the first width;

applying an adhesive to the backsheet;

applying the adhesive to a top surface of a spacer layer;

applying the spacer layer to the backsheet;

applying a liquid retention structure to the backsheet;

KCC-2100

7

L/jpp

applying the adhesive to a top surface of a surge management layer;
locating the surge management layer operatively adjacent to the liquid retention structure;
applying a necked topsheet of porous, liquid permeable, laterally extendable material to the web assembly;
laminating a fastening means to side panels, wherein the laminating is selected from the group consisting of adhesive lamination, ultrasonic lamination and combinations thereof;
laminating with the adhesive containment flaps having elastic materials and an upright, perpendicular configuration along the entire length of the liquid retention structure;
applying waist elastics to a waistband region of the precursor garments;
cutting leg hole cut outs on lateral margins of precursor garments;
removing necking tension from each of the precursor garments with the elastic material thereon and causing the precursor garment to assume the non-necked second width at areas outside the cuff area having the elastic material thereon; and
dividing the web assembly of precursor garments into absorbent articles;
whereby the elastic material holds the cuff area at a dimension narrower than the second width in the absorbent articles.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 37 wherein the surge management layer comprises a substantially hydrophilic tissue wrapsheet.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 37 wherein the topsheet comprises a substantially hydrophobic material.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 37 wherein the affixing of the elastic strands is by an adhesive.